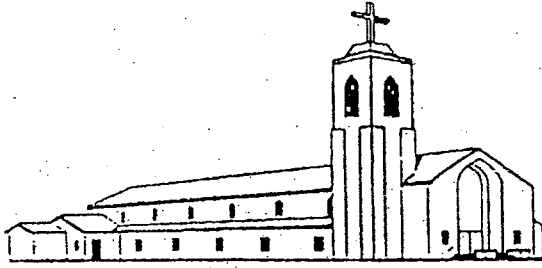


# ST. ANTHONY / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

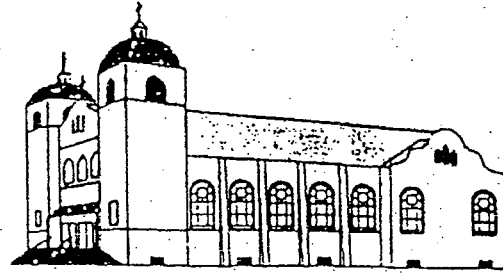
Pastor - Rev. Paul Kado

1799 WINTON WAY  
 ATWATER, CALIFORNIA 95301  
 Parish Office Hours Mon-Thurs.: 9AM - 4PM  
 Parish Office - (209) 358-5743 Fax-(209)358-2423  
 Office E-mail: church.office@stanthonyatwater.org  
 Website: www.stanthonyatwater.org

Deacon— Jesus Cisneros  
 Deacon—Rene Rubalcava



St. Anthony Church



Immaculate Conception Church

## Sunday Masses

|                     |         |                              |
|---------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| 4:00 PM (Sat Vigil) | English | St. Anthony Church           |
| 5:30 PM (Sat Vigil) | Español | St. Anthony Church           |
| 7:00 AM             | English | Immaculate Conception Church |
| 8:00 AM             | Español | St. Anthony Church           |
| 10:00 AM            | English | St. Anthony Church           |
| 11:30 AM            | English | St. Anthony Church           |

## Daily Mass or Communion Service

### Miercoles y Jueves Misa en Espanol

|                      |                              |                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 6:30 AM              | English                      | St. Anthony Church |
| 6:30 PM              | Español                      | St. Anthony Church |
| Liturgy of the Hours | 20 Minutes Before Daily Mass |                    |

|                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Holy Days</b>         | As Announced                       |
| <b>National Holidays</b> | As Announced                       |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>    | Thursday 4pm—6pm                   |
| <b>Baptism</b>           | English: 1st & 4th Saturday 8:00am |
| <b>Bautismo</b>          | Español 2do y 3er Sábado 8:00am    |
| <b>Marriages</b>         | 6 Months Advance Notice Required   |

## Quinceañeras

Se requiere aviso previo con 1 año (llame a la oficina parroquial con 1 año de anticipación para los requisitos)

## Catholic School - Preschool Through 8th Grade

|   |                                 |           |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Principal                               | Monica Cuevas Avila             |           |
| Office Manager                          | Lori Ceja                       |           |
| Address                                 | 1801 Winton Way, Atwater        |           |
| Phone                                   | 358-3341                        |           |
| Pre-School Director                     | Erika Valenzuela                |           |
| <b>Parish Secretary - Full—Time</b>     | Claudia A. Hernandez            | 358-5743  |
| <b>Part—Time</b>                        | Vianey Hernandez                |           |
| <b>Office Manager/Bookkeeper</b>        | Shirley Rubalcava               | 358-5743  |
| <b>Safe Environment Coordinator</b>     | Claudia Hernandez               | 358-5743  |
| <b>Director of Religious Education:</b> | Deacon Rene Rubalcava           | 676-2076  |
| <b>Catechism Assistant:</b>             | Gloria Montez                   | 676-2076  |
| <b>Confirmation Coordinator:</b>        | Claudia Hernandez               | 445-3410  |
| <b>RCIA - English</b>                   | Andy Miller                     | 631-9146  |
| <b>RCIA - Español</b>                   | Fernando & Claudia M. Hernandez | 564 -1294 |
| <b>Anchor - Youth Group</b>             | Alex & Lucy Cisneros            | 261-5460  |
| <b>Bulletin Ads</b>                     |                                 | 358-5743  |

# MEETINGS

## Group

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Altar Society   | As Announced  |  |
| Bible Study (Estudio biblico en espanol)                                | Viernes 7 pm  | CCD Building: Salon de Musica                  |
| Catholic Daughters of the Americas                                      | 2nd Tuesday Monthly 6 pm  | CCD Building: St. Theresa of Lisieux           |
| Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial   | Miercoles 7 pm  | CCF Building: St. Theresa of Lisieux           |
| Movimento Familiar Cristiano  | 2do Jueves del Mes 7 pm   | CCD Building: Salon San Juan Diego             |
| Guadalupe Society   | Last Thursday/ Ultimo Jueves del Mes 7pm                              | CCD Building: Salon San Juan Diego             |
| Knights of Columbus   | 1st Monday 6:00 PM & 1st Tuesday 6:00 PM Monthly                      | Parish Hall                                    |
| Grupo de Oracion Dulce Maria  | Friday/Viernes 7:00 pm  | St. Anthony Church                             |
| RCIA  | Sundays 11am-1pm  | CCD Building: Music Room                       |
| RICA(Español)   | Every Thursday/Jueves 7 pm  | Parish Hall                                    |
| YLI   | 2nd Monday Monthly 6:30pm   | Italo Lodge                                    |
| YMI   | 4th Wednesday Monthly 7:00 pm   | Parish Hall                                    |
| Hijos del Trueno (Ministerio de Hombres)<br>(Mens Spanish Prayer Group) | Every Tuesday/ Martes 7 pm<br>5th Tuesday/ Martes Monthly 7 pm        | CCD Building: Music Room<br>St. Anthony Church |
| Anchor Youth Group  | Fridays 7pm   | Parish Hall                                    |
| St. Anthony 4-H Club  | 3rd Wednesday Monthly 7pm   | Parish Hall                                    |
| Talita Cumi   | 2do Sabado del Mes—Español &<br>4th Saturday of the Month—English     | Parish Hall                                    |
| Vocations Work Group/<br>Grupo de Trabajo para las Vocaciones           | Last Wednesday of the Month 7:30PM<br>Ultimo Miercoles del Mes 7:30PM | Music Room<br>Salon de Musica                  |

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

**NATIONAL GUARD:** — ; **US AIR FORCE:** Senior Airman Keith Scharsch; **US ARMY:** Staff Sergeant Jaime Hernandez, Specialist Wade Preston Wight, Private Nathaniel Capuras Thompson, Alejandro Madrigal Jr. (Basic Training)  
**US MARINES:** 1st Lt. Paul G. Ortiz, LCpl - Ethan J. Ochoa ;  
**US NAVY:** M.A.S.A. Victoria G. Rameriz, Ensign Jarrett Sansoni

#### PLEASE KEEP THEM IN PRAYER.

If you would like to add someone to the Military prayer list please contact the parish office.



**REGISTRATION:** New to the Parish? Moving? Been with us a while but haven't yet registered? That's OK. Just fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or bring it by the office. Thanks! You are encouraged to register online at [www.stanthonyatwater.org](http://www.stanthonyatwater.org) also.

Change of Address  New Parishioner

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive offertory envelopes?  Yes  No

**A KNIGHTS' GALA NEWSLETTER  
Dinner & Auction Fundraiser  
March 8, 2025**

**Atwater Pentecost Hall**

It's once again time for our biggest fundraiser of the year, A Knights' Gala! Our dinner & auction will be held Saturday, March 8, 2025 at the APC Hall (1420 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Atwater). Dinner tickets are \$75 each. Doors open at 5:30PM with dinner starting at 6:30PM. No host bar. Tickets will soon be sent home with your child. Please turn in dinner ticket money by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Raffle Ticket money is due by March 7<sup>th</sup>. The evening will include Raffles, Silent, & Live Auctions. There's sure to be something for everyone! Each class will have a class project up for auction & teachers will be auctioning off desserts. We are still in desperate need of auction items. Some donation ideas are: Weekend Getaways (cabin/ Lake house), Sports Memorabilia, Home Décor, Movie Basket, Lego Basket, Lotto Basket, Homemade Crafts, & so much more.



**RAFFLE TICKETS**

Cash Raffle Tickets are available for \$10 each. Grand Prize wins \$1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$500, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$250. Drawing will take place on March 8, 2025. You do not have to be present to win. The class that sells the most EXTRA Tickets per student will have their choice of a Class Prize (Ice Cream party, free dress, Extra recess)



**2nd Collection Month of January:**

There will be a Special Collection the weekend of January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> for **ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**2do colecta del mes de Enero:**

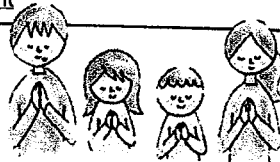
Habr  una colecta especial este fin de semana del 25 y 26 de enero para **LA ESCUELA DE SAN ANTONIO**.

Gracias de antemano por su generosidad.



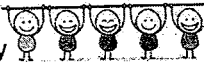
**Vocations Cross FAQ:**

1. Do we have to pray the Rosary at the same time every day? **No, pray whenever it's best for your family.**
2. What should we do if one or more of our family members is unable to join us? **Pray anyway**
3. Can we invite our friends or neighbors to join us in our family Rosary? **YES!**
4. When do we return the Cross to the church? **The following Sunday, arrive to Mass 15 minutes early & take the Cross & envelope into the Sacristy to present to Father.**
5. I have a friend who is single, are they able to sign up to take the Vocations Cross? **YES!**
6. Can we sign up for additional weeks? **Yes, please let the volunteer know who signed you up that you would like to do it again.**
7. Where can I find information about how to pray the Rosary? **Try the Laudate App, it is free and has many prayers including the Rosary.**  
<http://ayckasoft.blogspot.com/p/laudate-for-android.html>



**A SPECIAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE TO ALL  
PARISHIONERS! THANK YOU**

**FROM FATHER PAUL.**



It is almost impossible to personally & individually Thank you, the countless parishioners & friends who worked hard to plan (cook, set-up, clean-up, donated financially) & those who came to celebrate God's blessings of my time here as a pastor of St. Anthony & Immaculate Conception, Atwater, as well as my entire 36 years of religious life. It was a truly joyous & humbling experience to be the recipient of so much love, prayers & well wishes. It is with deep gratitude that I humbly express my appreciation for all the numerous expressions of care, generosity, beautiful cards & gifts. You have the promise of my remembrance in daily prayer as I hold all of you in my heart. Thank you for being an important part of my life & ministry here at St. Anthony & Immaculate Conception. This is not a goodbye, merely farewell. I am humbled before God & gratefully approach this new & exciting chapter of my life.

*Father Paul Augustus Kado*

**"May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding continue to guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." ~St. Paul**

**¡UNA NOTA ESPECIAL DE GRATITUD A TODOS LOS FELIGRESES! DEL PADRE PABLO.** Es casi imposible personalmente e individualmente. Gracias, los innumerables feligreses y amigos que trabajaron duro para planificar (cocinar, preparar, limpiar, donado financieramente) y aquellos que vinieron a celebrar las bendiciones de Dios de mi tiempo aquí como pastor de San Antonio e Inmaculada Concepción, Atwater, así como mis 36 años completos de vida religiosa. Fue una experiencia verdaderamente alegre y humillante ser receptor de tanto amor, oraciones y buenos deseos. Con profunda gratitud expreso humildemente mi aprecio por todas las numerosas expresiones de atención, generosidad, hermosas tarjetas y obsequios. Tenéis la promesa de mi recuerdo en la oración diaria mientras os tengo a todos en mi corazón. Gracias por ser una parte importante de mi vida y ministerio aquí en San Antonio e Inmaculada Concepción. Esto no es un adiós, sino simplemente un adiós. Me siento humilde ante Dios y acerco con gratitud este nuevo y emocionante capítulo de mi vida. *Padre Paul Augustus Kado*  
**"Que la paz de Dios, que sobrepasa todo entendimiento, continúe guardando vuestros corazones y vuestros pensamientos en Cristo Jesús". ~San. Pablo**

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL PARISHIONERS  
ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH OFFICE**

Our sincere gratitude to all those who assisted in planning, setting-up, cleaning-up, those who cooked, brought main dishes, side dishes, salads, drinks, paper-products (and who can forget all those amazing desserts!), those who donated financially (Priest's retirement fund) and those who took time out of their Sunday to enjoy mass with the bishop and celebrate Father Paul's retirement by joining us for the luncheon in the large hall. What a joyful noise that was made like no other celebration! You really could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as the Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony's parish community really came together as ONE body in Christ!

**"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common;"**

**~Acts 2:42-44**

**UN AGRADECIMIENTO ESPECIAL A TODOS LOS  
FELIGREGUES EN NOMBRE DE LA OFICINA  
PARROQUIAL**

Nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a todos los que ayudaron en la planificación, el montaje, la limpieza, los que cocinaron, trajeron platos principales, guarniciones, ensaladas, bebidas, productos de papel (¡y quién puede olvidar todos esos increíbles postres!), los que donaron financieramente (fondo de jubilación del sacerdote) y los que se tomaron un tiempo de su domingo para disfrutar de la misa con el obispo y celebrar la jubilación del Padre Paul uniéndose a nosotros para el almuerzo en el gran salón. ¡Qué ruido tan alegre se hizo como ninguna otra celebración! ¡Realmente se podía sentir la presencia del Espíritu Santo cuando la Inmaculada Concepción y la comunidad parroquial de San Antonio realmente se unieron como UN cuerpo en Cristo! **"Se dedicaban a la enseñanza de los apóstoles y a la vida comunitaria, a la fracción del pan y a las oraciones. El temor se apoderó de todos, y se hicieron muchos prodigios y señales por medio de los apóstoles. Todos los que habían creído estaban juntos, y tenían todas las cosas en común;" ~Hechos 2:42-44**



**Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

4:00PM †Violante Silva  
5:30PM †Franco & Aurea Diaz\*\*  
5:30PM Intencion para los Niños sin nacer\*\*

**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

7:00AM Intention for the Parishioners of  
Immaculate Conception & St. Anthony  
Churches\*  
8:00AM Intencion para la Familia Prado\*\*  
8:00AM †Teofilo y Maria Gonzalez\*\*  
10:00AM †Walter Souza Jr.  
10:00AM †Christopher Navarro  
11:30AM ---

**Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Communion Service)**

6:30AM †Willie & Angelika Carinal

**Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

6:30AM †Maria & Juan Negrete

**Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

6:30AM †Joseph & Mary Lourenco  
6:30AM †Andy Stum  
6:30PM †Jesus y Piedad Veloz- Alvarado\*\*

**Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

6:30AM †Danny & Kevin Loya- Gallegos  
6:30AM †George Stephanie  
6:30PM †Natalia Rentería\*\*

**Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

6:30AM Intention of the Zepeda Family  
6:30AM †Rosa Avila

Confessions/ Confesiones:

Thursday/ Jueves: 4PM-6PM

**NO CONFESSIONS JAN. 23<sup>rd</sup>/ NO  
CONFESIONES el 23 de ENERO**



**SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

MONDAY: St. Fabian, St. Sebastian, MLK Day  
TUESDAY: St. Agnes  
WEDNESDAY: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children  
THURSDAY: St. Vincent, St. Marianne Cope  
FRIDAY: St. Francis de Sales  
SATURDAY: The Conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading:** "Entonces las naciones verán  
tu justicia, y tu gloria todos los reyes."  
(Is. 62:1-5)

**Psalms:** "Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all  
the nations." (Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10)

**Second Reading:** "En cada uno se manifiesta  
el Espíritu para el bien común."  
(1 Cor. 12:4-11)

**Gospel:** "Everyone serves good wine first, and  
then when people have drunk freely, an  
inferior one; but you have kept the good wine  
until now." (John 2:1-11)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Hebrews 5:1-10; Psalm 110:1, 2, 3, 4;  
Mark 2:18-22  
**Tuesday:** Hebrews 6:10-20; Psalm 111:1-2, 4-5, 9,  
10c; Mark 2:23-28  
**Wednesday:** Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Psalm 110:1, 2, 3,  
4; Mark 3:1-6  
**Thursday:** Hebrews 7:25—8:6; Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9,  
10, 17; Mark 3:7-12  
**Friday:** Hebrews 8:6-13; Psalm 85:8, 10, 11-12, 13-14;  
Mark 3:13-19  
**Saturday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Psalm 117:1bc,  
2; Mark 16:15-18

**LET US REMEMBER TO OFFER A PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** Judy Souza, Jose Silva, Kelly Bretzinger,  
Edward Davis, Louise Miller, Cora Walls. (If you would like to have someone added to the list for  
the Year 2025, please contact the Parish office. Before adding someone to the list please be sure to  
have the persons permission to be added. Thank you.)





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Castle Atwater Winton



**Knights of Columbus**  
 Council #4305 Atwater, CA.  
 Meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month.  
 Charity, Unity, fraternity, and to Defend priesthood.



**Eric K. Cheung**  
DDS, FAGD



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**BAPTISMS:**



MUST REGISTER IN THE PARISH OFFICE. CURRENTLY REGISTERING in the month of JANUARY, to sign up for a CLASS in FEBRUARY, & BAPTISM will be MARCH 1ST. **NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE BAPTISMS DURING LENT (March 8th- April 20th)** \*IT IS A REQUIREMENT FOR BOTH PARENTS & GODPARENTS TO ATTEND A CLASS. **\*PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN TO CLASS.**

**BAUTIZOS:**

DEBEN REGISTRARSE EN LA OFICINA PARROQUIAL. ACTUALMENTE REGISTRANDO en el mes de ENERO, para inscribirse en una CLASE en FEBRERO, y el BAUTISMO será en MAYO. **NOTA: NO HABRA BAUTIZOS DURANTE LA CUARESMA (8 de MARZO a 20 de ABRIL)** \*ES UN REQUISITO QUE AMBOS PADRES Y PADRINOS DEBENASISTIR A UNA CLASE. **\*POR FAVOR NO TRAIGA NIÑOS A LA CLASE.**

**ATTENTION PARISHIONERS:**

It is that time of year again, **TAX SEASON!** Please be advised if you need a charity donation tax statement for 2025, please contact the Parish Office at (209)358-5743 or via email: [church.office@stanthonyatwater.org](mailto:church.office@stanthonyatwater.org) We will be processing your request as they come in. Thank you all for your generous contributions. May God continue to bless you.



**ATENCIÓN FELIGRESES:**

¡Es esa época del año nuevamente, **TEMPORADA DE IMPUESTOS!** Tenga en cuenta que, si necesita una declaración de impuestos sobre donaciones de caridad para 2025, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial al (209) 358-5743 o por correo electrónico: [church.office@stanthonyatwater.org](mailto:church.office@stanthonyatwater.org) Procesaremos su solicitud a medida que lleguen. Gracias a todos por sus generosas contribuciones. Que Dios los siga bendiciendo.

**United for Life of Merced County**



is organizing a Day of Prayer for the protection of Unborn Children & support of expectant mothers. The Prayer event begins at 12PM near the steps of the Old Merced County Courthouse Museum, Thur., Jan. 23, 2025. This annual observance is a reminder to all faithful people to reflect on the sacredness & fragility of life, especially for unborn babies. Together we stand & pray for the legal protection of pre-born children & support for expectant mothers. All are welcomed to join. Donations of baby diapers are most appreciated by our local Alpha Pregnancy Help Center in Merced & JMJ Maternity Home in Atwater. Please visit our website [mercedprolife.com](http://mercedprolife.com) for more information.

**2025 MASS INTENTION**

**BOOK:** \*Please come to the Parish Office ready with the dates & Mass times you would like. Limit of 5 Mass intentions per family per same last name (2 weekends & 3 weekdays).



**LIBRO DE INTENCIONES DE MISA 2025:**

\*Por favor venga a la Oficina Parroquial con las fechas y horarios de Misa que le gustaría tener listos. Límite de 5 intenciones por familia por mismo apellido (2 fin de semana y 3 entre semana)









**Catechist Formation Program:** Are you interested in learning more about your Catholic Faith? The St. Anthony's Religious Education Office is excited to announce registration is now available for the 2025 Catechist Certification Program. All current Catechist Teachers serving in our First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA and any other form of Religious Education here at St. Anthony's are required to participate. Classes will be offered in person on site in the Religious Education Building beginning mid-January 2025 through October 2025. The program will run in four (4) hour class increments. Classes will be offered in English & Spanish. Participants will be expected to attend once a month on Saturdays. Class times will run from 9AM to 1PM. For more information and/or to register, please contact the Religious Education Office at (209) 676-2076.

**Programa de Formación de Catequistas**  
¿Está interesado en aprender más sobre su fe católica? La Oficina de Educación Religiosa de St. Anthony se complace en anunciar que la inscripción ya está disponible para el Programa de Certificación de Catequistas 2025. **Todos los Maestros Catequistas actuales que sirven en nuestra Primera Comunión, Confirmación, RICA y cualquier otra forma de Educación Religiosa aquí en San Antonio deben participar.** Las clases se ofrecerán en persona en la Oficina de Educación Religiosa a partir de mediados de enero de 2025 y se extenderán hasta octubre de 2025. El programa se ejecutará en incrementos de clase de cuatro (4) horas. Las clases se ofrecerán en inglés y español. Se espera que los participantes asistan una vez al mes los sábados El horario de clases será de 9AM a 1PM. Para obtener más información y/o para registrarse, comuníquese con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa al (209) 676-2076.

**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MON., JAN. 20TH, 2025 IN OBSERVANCE TO MLK Day.** HAPPY  *Martin Luther*  KING DAY

**LA OFICINA PARROQUIAL ESTARÁ CERRADA EL LUNES 1 DE ENERO. 20 DE 2025 EN OBSERVANCIA DEL Día de MLK.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**



**ALL CHURCH GROUPS:** Facility Request Forms need to be filled out for 2025. Please stop by the office to fill out a form & be put on the schedule. **IMPORTANT NOTICE: THE HALL & WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR USE THE WHOLE MONTH OF JANUARY.** Please make sure to make other arrangements for your meetings. The groups that are required to provide insurance, please make sure it is up to date, if it is expired you will not be able to use the Facilities until the insurance is renewed.

**GRUPOS DE LA IGLESIA:** Los formularios de solicitud de instalaciones deben estar completado para EL 2025. Por favor pase a la oficina para llenar un formulario y ser incluido en el calendario. **AVISO IMPORTANTE: EL SALÓN NO ESTARÁN DISPONIBLE PARA USO TODO EL MES DE ENERO.** Asegúrese de hacer otros arreglos para sus reuniones. Los grupos que tienen que proporcionar aseguranza, por favor asegúrese de que esté actualizado, si está vencido no podrá utilizar las Instalaciones hasta que se renueve.

**Attention All 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Catechism Parents & Students**

Classes will resume this week. Please be sure you bring your student(s) to class this week & on your designated day, turn in to your teacher all winter break mass reflections.



**Atención a todos los padres y alumnos de 1<sup>er</sup> y 2<sup>do</sup> año de Catecismo**

Todas las clases de Catecismo se reanudarán esta semana. Por favor, asegúrese de traer a su(s) estudiante(s) a clase esta semana y en el día designado, entregue a su maestro todas las reflexiones masivas de las vacaciones de invierno.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Ordinary Time in the Church year begins after the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrated last Sunday. The Feast counts as the first Sunday in Ordinary Time and so today we have the Second Sunday. We can tell by the Gospel of the Wedding Feast of Cana that we are still echoing the mysteries of the Epiphany. The Church places before us readings that can deepen our awareness of what it means to follow Christ. We want to follow Him, even to the Cross, so that we can also share in His Resurrection. Today's first reading and Gospel focus on this mystery of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Both of these readings mention marriage, but the focus of our readings is not on marriage, but on how God reveals Himself to us—that is, Epiphany again. Jerusalem has been brought low, rejected, taken into exile and broken. All of us most likely feel that way at times. It is more difficult for us to identify with a group that feels that way. For instance, our Catholic Church has been humbled exceedingly by the scandals of the past several years. If we are Catholic, then generally we distance ourselves from the Church. This is a really different attitude than that of our ancestors in the faith. When newly married couple and their families. Jesus is always willing to help, even when a miracle is not required. Am I willing to help others when they need me? Am I willing to give my time and my energy to helping others when it has no benefit for me? The First Letter to the Corinthians, from which the second reading is taken today, continues this same message. Each of us has gifts and we are to use them to build up the body of Christ, to benefit others. Perhaps we think that our gifts are negligible. Perhaps we think that others have better or more important gifts than ours. That does not matter, whatever we are given, we given to use for others. Today lots of us simply don't want to belong to anything. More and more people want nothing to do with organized religion. People don't want to worship together nor even to pray together. What seems to be lacking in most Churches is the wine! We have run out of wine and we pray that Mary will intercede for us with her Son as she did at the Wedding Feast of Cana. There seems to be little enthusiasm for God and even less for the Church. Yet the party is not over! We who live in countries with a lot of money seem to have lost any sense of God or of His presence or of any need for Him. The Wedding Feast of Cana showed the divinity of Jesus to His followers. God promises us in the Prophet Isaiah that He will be with us, that He will be with the Church, with His people. But there is never any promise that we shall not suffer nor that we shall not be purified anew from our faithlessness. Today as we celebrate Eucharist, we can ask God to purify us, to renew His Holy Spirit within us and to renew the whole Church. Let us ask for the wine that brings joy to hearts! And let us give thanks for this God who loves us.



**A Prayer for Vocations:** God our Father, in baptism you call your People by name & make us one family in your Church. We praise you for your goodness; we thank you for your gifts. Father, bless your Church with love. Raise up in the Diocese of Fresno good & holy families: loving husbands & wives, devoted parents & children. Raise up from our families dedicated & generous leaders who will serve as priests & religious for your people. Send your Spirit to guide & strengthen them that they may serve your people following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our prayer. Amen

**Oración por las vocaciones:** Dios nuestro Padre, en el bautismo llamas a tu pueblo por su nombre y haznos una sola familia en tu Iglesia. Te alabamos por tu bondad; te lo agradecemos por tus regalos. Padre, bendice a tu Iglesia con amor. Levantemos en la Diócesis de Fresno familias buenas y santas: esposos y esposas amorosos, padres e hijos devotos. Levanta de nuestras familias líderes dedicados y generosos que sirvan como sacerdotes y religiosos para tu pueblo. Envía tu Espíritu para guiarlos y fortalecerlos para que puedan servir a tu pueblo siguiendo el ejemplo de tu Hijo, Jesucristo, en cuyo nombre ofrecemos nuestra oración. Amén.